

being as yet no permanent seat of government, such papers had no other depository than in the private mansion of the incumbent. He died some four years after the war, still high in the public confidence, and at the time of his demise a member of the Congress of the confederation. Having made this allusion to the measures of defence adopted by the State government in this, to her, the darkest hour of the war, I cannot withhold the expression of my gratification, that through every line of the public statutes of the journals of the General Assembly, and of the Board of War, there breathes the loftiest spirit of defiance towards the enemy, and an unquailing determination to call forth every energy of the country to uphold its now doubtful cause. It well consists with the patriotic and daring resolutions of her popular assemblies, and provincial congresses of 1774, '5, and '6; and to the end of the contest, her authorities, amid every trial and disaster, kept the standard of independence full high advanced, and the organized government in steady, protective, and salutary operation. "*Magna vis est, magnum nomen, unum et idem sentientis senatus.*"

While the work of reconstructing the main army was pressed forward with all possible expedition at Hillsborough, the command of Davidson* took up a position on Rocky river in Mecklenburg, which, in his correspondence, he styles "Camp M'Knitt Alexander," the name of an early and ardent patriot in that county, from which he kept up a system of observation on the British army and the disaffected districts of the country. Gen. Sumner,** with another force of militia, occupied "Camp Yadkin," west of the river of that name.

Gen. Smallwood,† accepting the command to which he had been invited by the General Assembly, accompanied by two hundred regulars under the renowned Col. Morgan, who had now reached the Southern army, proceeded westwardly, and took command of both these brigades, a few days after the retreat of Lord Cornwallis from Charlotte. Chastising the tories, in a handsome skirmish, by a detachment of his troops under Major Cloyd,‡ at Shallow Ford, on the Yadkin, in a settlement not far from which place Colonel Bryan had raised and marched a regiment of loyalists, immediately after the surrender of Charleston, and joined the British in South Carolina, he advanced to the frontier of the State, on the Catawba, to watch the

* Journal of Board of War.

** Journal of Board of War.

† Ibid.

‡ Ibid.